

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BISSAU 00209 211128Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0209

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CV
SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE VISIT

1. CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PEREIRA INFORMED ME
FEBRUARY 18 THAT WITHIN NEXT WEEK HE WOULD BE SENDING
TO DEPARTMENT TENTATIVE TIMING AND PROPOSED AGENDA FOR
HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER.
PEREIRA RAISED SUBJECT DURING MY CALL ON HIM TO PRESENT
GIFT (COPY OF DESPATCHES OF FIRST AMERICAN CONSULS TO
CAPE VERDE) IN COMMEMORATION OF OFFICIAL OPENING OF EMBASSY
PRAIA. HE SAID THAT CAPE VERDE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON
VARELA HAD FORWARDED STATEDEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR THIS
INFORMATION AND THAT HE INTENDS TO REPLY BY MESSAGE
HANDACARRIED BY CAPE VERDE AMBASSADOR TO UN AMARO DA LGZ
WHO PRESENTLY IN CAPE VERDE ON CONSULATION.

2. AS IT THOUGHT SUBJECT OF PEREIRA VISIT TO WASHINGTON
WAS PIGEON-HOLED ITEM FOLLOWING JANAURY 11 CONVERSATION
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR VARELA AND AF/W DESK OFFICER ROGER
MCGUIRE AND PRAIA CHARGE HOWARD MCGOWEN, I FELT I HAD
MISUNDERSTOOD AND ASKED PRESIDENT PEREIRA TO REPEAT.
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HE DID SO, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES PROJECTED
VISIT APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY DEPARTMENT, AND THAT
ONLY QUESTIONS OF TIMING AND AGENDA REMAIN. I MADE NO
FURTHER COMMENT.

3. LATEG SAME DAY I DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH DA LUZ WHO
REPEATED SUBSTANCE OF VARELA MESSAGE AND ASSURED ME

THAT PRESIDENT PEREIRA BELIEVES VIST NOW ON. DA LUZ IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PEREIRA MONDAY OR TUESDAY TO RECEIVE REPLY TO "DEPARTMENTS'S " QUERIES. (PEREIRA PROMISED US COPY AS WELL.) DA LUZ IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO NEW YORK NEXT THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

4. WHILE PEREIRA HOPES TO UTILIZE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO REVIEW BILATERAL MATTERS, DA LUZ SAY THAT PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO DISCUSS CURRENT AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF HIS ACTING AS INTERLOCUTEUR VALABLE BETWEEN VARIOUS CONTESTING PARTIES, PARTICULARLY IN HORN OF AFRICA. PEREIRA IMPLIED THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATING DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND DA LUZ CONFIRMED (HAT PEREIRA AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." PEREIRA, AGIN ACCORDING TO DA LUZ, BELIEVES THAT USG HAS A "WORD TO SAY" AND THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN US-ANGOLAN RELATIONS. BOVIOUS IMPLICATION OF REMARKS BY DA LUZ IS THAT CUBAN AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES ARE AT HEART OF PEREIRA'S CONCERN'S. TO ME, DA LUZ ARGURED THAT WHILE CAPE VERDE IS A VERY SMALL COUNTRY, PRESIDENT PEREIRA HAS A CERTAIN PRESTIGE IN AFRICAN CIRCLES AND IS WILLING TO USE IT IN PURSUIT OF PEACE. DA LUZ ADDED, UNDER QUESINTONING, THAT PEREIRA'S INITIATIVE WOULD PREFERABLY BUT NOT NECESSARILY BE IN OAU CONTEXT.

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5. DA LUZ SAYS THAT PEREIRA IS THINKING OF LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE FOR WASHINGTON VISIT.

6. I GAVE PEREIRA NO CONFIRMING SIGNALS AND PRIVATELY AND FRANKLY CAUTIONED DA LUZ THAT I BELIEVE THAT A SERIOUS CONFUSION HAS ARISEN. DA LUZ WILL TRY TO DAMPEN DOWN EXPECTATIONS BUT HE IS ALSO PUZZLED. HE WILL CALL ROGER MCGUIRE IN AF/W AS SOON AS HE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK.

7. COMMENT: AT RISK OF SOUNDING AFFLICTED BY LOCALITIS, MAY I POINT OUT THAT PEREIRA DOES IN FACT HAVE EXTREMELY VALID PROGRESSIVE CREDENTIALS DATING FROM ANT-PORTUGUESE COLONIAL ASSOCIATION WITH AMILCAR CABRAL, AND POSITION AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF SINGLE CAPE- VERDE/GUINEA-BISSAU POLITICAL PARTY. HE HAS VERY CLOSE TIES WITH MPLA LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY AUGUSTINHO NETO. WE HAVE OFTEN SPECULATED ON POSSIBLE ROLE CV AND GB MIGHT PLAY AS INTERMEDIARY WITH ANGOLA, THIS IS FIRST TIME THEY HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN DOING SO. WHILE OFFICIAL PEREIRA VISIT TO WASHINGTON MIGHT BE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR NUMEROUS REASONS, I

RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE
GIVEN TO WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH PEREIRA'S DESIRE TO
ACT--IN COOPERATION WITH USG--BE ACCOMMODATED.

8. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
MARKS

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NNN

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